TUESDAY February 20, 1900. CROSBY S. NOYES......Editor

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined cir-culation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

D'in order to avoid delays, on account of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Departments, according to tenor or purpose.

A Campaign "Gag."

The yarn about the secret alliance be tween England and the United States, like a well-constructed negro minstrel joke, may be adjusted to suit the audience, and, if entertainingly told, is sure of hearty handclaps everywhere. The gentleman who rattles the bones or twirls the tambourine has only to institute inquiries about dominant local prejudices to make a "gag" go. New will roar over a fling at Chicago while the same fling told in Chicago with the name of New York substituted brings down the house. As the proof of the pudding is in the eating, the value of a yarn

is in the telling. It pleases the enemies of the administration to insist not only that there is a secre alliance with England, but that it is humiliating to the United States. Through its operations we are completely in England's wer. She uses us as she pleases. She incited us to hold on in the Philippines, and we did so. She took us up on a high mountain and made a tempting offer to us o become a world power, and we immediately accepted the bribe and ceased to be a hermit republic. She opens the mail of our consuls, reads their official instructions, and forwards the raped letters at her conven-She both uses and despises us she is through with us we will be tossed into the gutter like a sucked orange. It pleases some of the enemies of Lord Salisbury's government in England to assert that there is no secret alliance between England and the United States, although his lordship made a desperate effort to bring one about. He was snubbed by this government. He went down on his knees o no purpose. The United States heard him with no mark of sympathy whatever England has no friends anywhere. Her affairs have been so wretchedly mismanaged she stands alone, and an object either of pity or derision. How much longer will the people of England stand such a government? What is plainer than that as soon as it may be done without still further complicating the issues produced by the war in South Africa the government should be hurled from power, and one set up which foreign countries will respect and be giad to co-operate with to good ends?

This alliance yarn serves a certain small purpose fairly well. It produces some merriment. But it is so thin in places it cannot be expected to stand the wear and tear of a presidential campaign. Its burnt-cork peculiarities are also against it.

The War News.

The news from South Africa, although neager, continues favorable to the British. Lord Roberts has moved his headquarters about thirty-five miles to the east of Jacobsdal, showing that his main army is on the move eastward, probably in pursuit of There are repeated rumors affoat in London that Kitchener has surrounded Cronje and that a big battle is imminent. There is nothing positive in the dispatches to confirm or to refute this assertion. Judging from Lord Roberts' previous conduct of the campaign, he is not to be expected to announce any preliminaries to so mportant a maneuver until he can ance the result. The fact that he is moving eastward shows that he is conducting a general movement toward Bloemfon-tein, whether he expects to corner Cronje merely hopes to carry the frontler of the campaign further into the burgher ter-

ritory remains to be seen.

Queen Victoria is quoted in the dispatches ouncing with a pleased manner this morning that good news had come, and later explaining that it related to Lady-London is consequently eager for ret. It may prove that the queen, long ressed by the cheerless tidings from the front, is willing to rate as good news even the announcements of undecisive advances such as Buller is now slowly making.

The most suggestive news of the day is

that the queen has summoned into service for home defense the officers and enlisted men formerly in her army but now retired.
If viewed pessimistically this may mean that there is secret news of another re-verse, necessitating further drafts upon the forces, or it may merely be a move of precaution to insure an organization for home defense in advance of any actual necessity. It is an unusual step, and has consequently woked much discuss

A Problem in Couse and Effect. Senator Tillman's catechism of Senator Foraker yesterday smacked of an old, familiar conundrum. The Constitution procided that Congress should exercise exclu sive jurisdiction over an area, not exceeding ten miles square, which might later be provided as a seat of government. Thus he District was inchoately created simultaneously with the Constitution's adoption. But the District was not actually created by donation from Virginia and Maryland until several years later, and it was not until 1871 that Congress thought to extend the Constitution formally to this territory. Senator Tillman seemed anxious to learn whether the District, being written into the Constitution, as an abstract proposition, did not there exist really before the Constitu-This is merely a new method of stating the question: Whence came the first

There is some regret that the conditions coduced by the cold wave do not warrant the usual apprehension for the safety of the Long bridge.

The Public Building Bureau.

According to a news article published to day the defects of the government's building bureau, as revealed in the faulty workmanship aiready discovered in the new pos office in this city, have been brought into court through a suit which may evoke echoes in and out of Congress. This case is worthy of consideration apart from its nerits as an action for damages, for if the allegations of the claimants are well founded they represent a deplorable condition of lax organization in the bureau intrusted with the expenditure of many millions of dollars and the comfort and security of thousands of government employes. It appears from the papers in the case that the contractors for the steam heating for the post office were met at every turn with the inadequacy of the plans and specifications provided by the Treasury Department, necessitating fretract, and thereby involving them in delays and extra expenses. The public has little concern in the business relations of the contractors to the government. The court will provide them their equitable remedy if their claims are valid. But the public is concerned in the charge that the plans for this costly building, and unquestionably scores of others elsewhere throughout the country,

THE EVENING STAR. structures are not well built, that they are too costly, and that they do not represent arts. The Star has unfortunately had frequent occasion to call attention to the glaring evidences of bad management in connection with the post office building. while events have followed to emphasize its warnings and fears. That so conspicnously annoying an aggregation of faults should have accumulated in a building erected under the very eyes of Congress is a sad token of the efficiency of the general system and urgently suggests remedles the direction of a reorganization of the public building system. They are to be best discovered through the medium of an inquiry into the methods employed in the post office construction, on the assumption that if ever good work could be expected from the building bureau it would be in the case of this conspicuous and important government structure. Such an investigation indeed warranted by the facts already known and by the mere allegations of the pending suit in the Court of Claims. The pending legislative appropriation bill affords this end that may be considered advisable. This is a matter for early action, in view of the many evidences of a demand that the government erect several other buildings along the south side of Pennsylvania avenue to accommodate the increasing require ments of the public service. Every precau-tion should be taken now to insure results in such an enterprise certain to stand all tests and for all time.

The Senate's Telephone Inquiry. The people of the District view the proeedings in the Senate yesterday afternoo with mingled feelings of interest, amuse ment and gratitude. They observe the upper house of Congress solemnly debating whether the national capital is under the cope of the Constitution of the United States They see learned statesmen ardently arguing the point whether the Constitu tion or the District existed first, and finally they witness evidence of a disposition in that quarter to enforce the laws already passed for their protection and benefit Washingtonians do not object to a ventila tion of views upon the somewhat mooted point of their status under the law. Every word uttered in passionless debate is calcu lated to bring out more and more forcibly the fact that the District is dependent upon Congress for its laws and that as the records stand the law of 1878 is the supreme statute, second only to the Constitution Senator Hale's concern for the fate of the telephone rate law is natural and praise worthy. He cannot repress a mild indignation that the act of Congress has bee lightly set aside, and he wants to know what steps have been taken to insure its directs his inquiry at the Commissioners and intimates, as do other senators, tha it was their function to follow the law and to give it their official supervision. This raises a new point in this connection, whether it is not incumbent upon the local authorities to throw into the scale in be half of such statutes all the weight of their official character and to support them by means of the legal talent at their disposal rather than relegate the task to the citizens, individually and collectively. Meanwhile the telephone users of the Dis

trict are not disposed to await the slow process of an appeal to the higher courts. for they continue under heavy bonds to reimburse the telephone company for the ex tra charges over and above those prescribed by the law and are being put to a constant expense to maintain the litigation. At the same time many hundreds of would-be telephone users are impatiently awaiting opportunity to secure 'phone service at reasonable rates and are deprived of this privilege as long as the matter is pending in the courts. Both classes prefer to secure if possible new legislation, either establish ing a new rate to regulate the old company, or chartering a new company willing to give bonds for the satisfactory execution of the work of establishment.

What the people of the District want is relief from this burden of unjust telephone exaction. Harassed by the adverse decision of the lower court, and encouraged by the indignation of senators who demur at the checking of their legislation, they stand ready to indorse any fair proposition calculated to afford prompt redress of griev ances.

he particulars, which are not forthcoming | Expensive Campaigning in Montana. paid out \$140,000 in an effort to rid Montana of the Daly influence is a startling admission, and is at the same time one of the strongest possible arguments in behalf of an amendment to the Constitution changing the method of electing senators. To be sure, there were other issues in Montana than the senatorship. The question of se lecting a state capital was decided; state laws affecting one large corporation or another were passed; various other matters affecting the rival factions were adjusted, and all involving the expenditure of enormous sums of money. Nothing, apparently, can be done politically in Montana without extravagant expenditures. But with the enatorship removed from the immediate range of this battery of "barreis" it might e somewhat more difficult for manipulaors to buy seats in Congress or to grease the ways leading to Washington. All other mmonwealths are not as easy a field for the corruptionists as Montana. Voters elsedo not have to be transported as far to be registered and to vote. They do not equire so much financial attention to keep them in line. Montana, in short, may be the very horrible example desirable to convince the people at last that a change in method is necessary. It is argued that the intrepid bribe-giver will find as broad a chance to buy a senatorial seat when nominations for the office are made in conven tion and the people are asked to choose between party rivals. This need not be the case. If notoriously corrupt methods are employed in securing a nomination the people will know the fact and may vote accordingly. If both candidates for the office are known to have won their nomina tions by the impreper use of money there i still left the expedient of an independent omination by the friends of honest elections. It is a far different thing to set up candidate stamped with the dollar mark than o manipulate a legislature after election This case ought to serve a good purpose beyond the distribution of a large fortun mong a number of individuals in Montana, whether the state's political atmosphere is 'purified" by this process or not.

A crusade against an offensive theatrical show must take its chances on providing the enterprise with a great deal of val-

General George Washington never had to bother much about press censorship.

Too Many Public Fees. The general trend of the proposed tax and license bill is toward a community fairly bristling with fees. Such a policy is calcu the minor merchant, the enterprising citizen who seeks to stimulate trade in one direction or another. It will surely, if enforced, react to the disadvantage of the District as a business center. The line between the restriction of unnecessary enterprises through taxation and the imp tion of taxes for revenue purposes must be closely guarded. Such a measure as this enacted in its entirety, would make Wash-

those providing a strict investigation into every citizen's personal property, and general tax of one and one-half per cent on the gross income of all corporations. The first of these propositions is impracticable and the second absurd. The American people have never been patient under detective investigations of their private affairs, their means and their liabilities, and it is only in the last extremity that such a means of raising money is resorted to. A tax of on and one-half per cent on the gross incom of the corporations would have the one re sult of closing the doors of a large number of them. The board which has made this report and submitted this bill doubtless construed its duty as being to point ou how more revenue could be acquired by the District if such revenue was wanted. Under this construction it has carried out its tasl and has suggested many ways in which revenue might be raised, at the expense of the best interests of the business commun ity, and some ways where legitimate revenue is now being lost. It will now rest with the Commissioners to ignore the former and consider the latter suggestions.

The entire Haitian navy has sunk. It consisted of one battle ship which was on its way north for repairs. Possibly the incident may be a fortunate relief from worry and expense.

Kansas City and Milwaukee are endeav oring to make their fight for a nationa convention as interesting as that of Chi cago and Philadelphia.

The Queen of England's appeal to old soldiers will of course be ably indorsed by the poets who make an especial feature of that style of work.

Possibly Mr. Bryan refuses to drop fre silver because of an artistic dread that some one will ring in that old phrase "dull,

A revolution is in progress in Venezuela but it is doubted whether it will assume the erious proportions of a Kentucky election

It is thought in a comparatively short time arrangements will be made by which the Kentucky legislature can legislate.

to frost, thereby scoring the usual beat or the Delaware peach crop. Englishmen in South Africa are getting

The Florida orange crop has succumbed

weary of that adage about history repeat-

SHOOTING STARS. Analysis.

"There's no use in trying to tell me that politics is on the decline," said Senator erghum.

"There's no use of talking. I don't believe that success in politics lies in declining. It depends on accepting." Old Institutions.

This world, they say, is growing wise. A century-behold its dawn! Yet green-goods people advertise

And still the bunco-game goes on! Both Sides. "We ought not to arrive at a conclusion until we have looked at both sides thor-

oughly," said the philosopher. "What are you talking about now?" aske the Briton, rather irritably. "The Tugela

"Once in a while," said Uncle Eben, man compliments hisse'f on habbin' patience when he's simply too lazy to make a

Solicitude.

"Henrietta," said Mr. Meekton, anxiously, "how did I do?" "What do you mean? I am the one who made the speech." "Yes; but I applauded. I wanted to know if I cheered in the right places."

Satisfaction.

I hears de sabers rattle An' de guns is shootin' loud. De soldiers lined foh battle, Dey is walkin' mighty proud. But de bullets sing so hateful As dey shortens dis life's span I can't he'p feelin' grateful Dat I's fes' a cullud man.

Nobody calls me "Kunnell." Nor salutes as I pass by. I doesn' 'speck no one'll Git a pension when I die But I goes as I has stated Workin' hahd, de bes' I can; An' I'd feels congratulated Dat I's jes' a cullud man.

Congress and the Civil Service. rom the Chicago Tribune

From the Chicago Tribune.

This opposition of the congressmen to the extension of civil service reform is strange. The extensions of the merit law have come from the executive, and even now the congressmen oppose the placing of the consular service on a business basis, although the administration has recommended the change. Yet in practice the congressmen are civil service reformers. Every one of them argues in favor of his own re-election on the ground that his previous experience makes him better fitted for the work than a new man would be. It is astonishing that a congressman cannot see the inconsistency of rasking such an argument in favor of his own retention in office and yet favor of his own retention in office and ye favor a wholesale change in all othe

The Anti-Trust Agitators.

From the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

It really is a pity that there cannot be gathered together a set of intelligent men, with reasoning powers, to consider trusts in a proper way, to view them as constituting a great economic problem, to study the best way to regulate them, so that they will really subserve the interest of the people, as well as the interests of the shareholders, and to study them in every light. But, nowadays, when an anti-trust gathering is proposed, there flocks together a set of men who have no fixed opinions, except as expressed in the cry, "Down with the trusts and down with the republican party." Fortunately, they do no harm. Their partisanship cannot be concealed by their cheap cries. They show that they are not only "agin trusts," but "agin" the government and "agin" the republican party. rom the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune

American People Waking Up.

m the New York Times From the New York Times.

The American people have broken out of the isolation in which they were shut up. They have become intensely conscious of facts, relations, possibilities of which before they had only a dim notion, and this consciousness enables, nay, compels, them to realize conditions to which they were before dull and indifferent. The demand for the go'd standard is in large part the fruit of this consciousness, because the gold standard is one of the conditions of success in the new life on which we are entering.

Prosperity Everywhere. From the Philadelphia Record.

It is gratifying to note that the prosperi-ty in cotton manufacturing is not confined at the present time to the south. There has been a great rush of trade which has has been a great rush of trade which has spread out all over the land, and the hum of industry is heard throughout the New England cotton mill district as well as elsewhere. All the forces that have been at work unseen during the years of industrial depression are now in process of manifestation, and the indications are that these have not yet reached the maximum point of develonment.

Automobile Dangers. From the New York Herald.

building, and unquestionably scores of others elsewhere throughout the country, were prepared without proper consideration for the continuity and the harmony of the work or the efficiency of the completed structure. It is a matter for grave public apprehension. It suggests that the public building the public apprehension. It suggests that the public building the proposal to the small boy has found another vent in starting automobiles left standing in the street and causing runaways. Owners of such vehicles should either not leave them unchanged or else remove enough of the mischievous activity of the small boy has found another vent in starting automobiles left standing in the street and causing runaways. Owners of such vehicles should either not leave them unchanged or else remove enough of the mischievous activity of the small boy has found another vent in starting automobiles left standing in the street and causing runaways. Owners of such vehicles should either not leave them unchanged or else remove enough of the mischievous activity of the small boy has found another vent in starting automobiles left standing in the street and causing runaways. Owners of such vehicles should another vent in starting automobiles left standing in the street and causing runaways. Owners of such vehicles should another vent in starting automobiles left standing in the street and causing runaways. Owners of such vehicles should either not leave them unchanged in the street and causing runaways. Owners of such vehicles should either not leave them unchanged in the street and causing runaways.

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"CERES" Flour.

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30-in.

Real Cowhide Grain English Bag, olive, high cut, ewed frame, leather lined, inside pockets, best 14-in. 15-in. 16-in. 17-in. 18-in. \$5.00 \$5.50 \$6.00 \$6.50 \$7.00 Men's Leather Hat Boxes, with good heavy lock tell made, nicely lined.

\$4.50 each. Genuine Cowhide Suit Cases, olive, steel frame, S hingos riveted on, heavy protected corners, good lock, key and clasps, strong handle. 22-inch, \$5.00; 24-inch, \$5.50.

Steamer Trunks, heavy duck covered, sheet ottom, 5 slats on top, best excelsior lock and olts, strap hinges, tray, cloth lined throughout. 28-in. 30-in. ,32-in. \$5.50 \$5.00 38-in. 40-in. \$7.00 \$7.50 Women's Hat Trunks, the only correct means carrying hats without crushing or soiling. Here great variety. Capacity for 5 hats. Also trays top for small apparel—gloves, handkerchiefs, neckwear, etc.

22-inch, \$6.25; 24-inch, \$7.00.

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and are a novelty in this line.

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Exclusive Paris novelties, in new models, specially designed for the present mode of costume. Elegant effects in white and colored satins, silks, batistes and coutils, garnished with dainty laces, embroideries and ribbons. Ribbon Corsets and Bust Girdles in delicate tints, for wear with low-cut gowns. Silk Hose Supporters to match.

Very strong and durable Trunks, well made, hav-ing malleable from clamps and corners, excelsior lock, heavy hinges and dowels in front, deep tray with lid over all, cloth faced.

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38-in.

\$11.00 \$12.00 \$13.00

32-in.

\$9.50

34-in.

\$12.00

40-in.

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40-in.

34-in.

30-in.

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For women, misses and children, of all the correct materials and newest designs and effects, at popular prices. Also made to order, on short notice,

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Women's and children's shoes polished free.

The Rev. Chas. M. Sheldon, the famous evangelist and author of the well-known book "In His Steps," will edit "The Topeka Capital" for one week, beginning March 13. This is done for the purpose of showing his idea as to how a Christian newspaper should be managed.

The price of the Capital for the week in which Rev. Chas. M. Sheldon will edit and manage the Subscriptions received from now on.

No subscriptions will be taken for less than the whole week.

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Reduced to \$1.50. Made from the Best Gold-filled Wire-arms e equal of Gold. Strong, light and stylish

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The Bargain Season

This is eminently the bargain season for Wash and Slik Waists here. Per haps many competitors were for Wash and Silk Waists here. Perhaps many competitors won't agree with us, but we believe in keeping prices way down when we're introducing the new styles. No reason why you should pay extra for a new style, when it doesn't really cost the dealer any more to get it. You'll find this the equitable shopping house in every sense of the word.

Lace All-over Waists, in white only, ultra-fashionable, for evening wear. Compare with others' \$5 waists. Our price..... \$3.50

Imported Gauze Fabric Waists, with colored silk stripes -a ribbon effect-in nile, lav-ender, light blue, pink and white. Compare with others' \$5 waists. Our price....\$2.98 Organdy Waists, with em-broidered dots, in white with

black, blue with white, pink with white and lavender with white. All exclusive styles. Easily worth \$2.75. price......\$1.99 Taffeta Silk Waists, one or

two of a style, in 12 styles, black and colors. Worth \$6 to \$7.50.....\$3.99 Taffeta Silk Waists, tucked all over, dress sleeve cuffs, Dewey collar, in black and

white and all colors of the rain-

bow. Compare with \$7.50

waists. Our price.... \$4.98 Taffeta Silk Waists, in all colors, with white tucked yoke. Compare with \$7.50 waists. Our price.....\$5.98

Mayer Bros. & Co., 937-939 F St.

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again. Even folks who deal eisewhere come here for Coffee. They say no other Coffee suits them as well as OUR OLD JAVA and MOCHA. It's only 38c. a pound, too— and fresh roasted every day. ETMail orders filled promptly. W. E. ABBOTT, FINE GROCERIES,

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We are manufacturers. We make everything we sell right here on the premises. We're so sure of our goods that we guarantee them unconditionally. If anything is wrong you've only to notify us to have the matter set right. Isn't it satisfactory to buy such goods?

CARPETS CLEANED. 1t PURNITURE UPHOLSTERED.

We Are Not Selling Our

Furs at Auction. We have no Furs for which we're willing to take whatever you choose to offer. Our Furs have an actual value. They're not "bargain lots." It's true we're offering all our Furs at REDUCED PRICES—but that does not discredit their value or impeach their true worth.

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